

Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 181425Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6587
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 511

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, EI, UK (NI)
SUBJECT: IRA PRISON-ESCAPE BLOCKED

1. PROVISIONAL IRA MADE ANOTHER IN ITS SERIES OF ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE FROM JAIL IN THE REPUBLIC ON NIGHT OF MARCH 17, ST. PATRICK'S DAY. PREPARATIONS WERE METICULOUS AND MUST HAVE REQUIRED INTENSIVE ORGANIZATION. THERE WERE MULTIPLE DIVERSIONARY EXPLOSIONS AROUND THE TOWN OF PORTLAOISE, WHERE MOST IRA PRISONERS ARE HELD. COORDINATED BLASTS TOOK PLACE WITHIN PRISON, SHOWING THAT PROVOS ARE STILL ABLE TO SMUGGLE IN EXPLOSIVES DESPITE STRICT SECURITY. DURING ESCAPE ATTEMPT, ONE PRISONER WAS KILLED AND OTHERS WOUNDED. NONE SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING.

2. COMMENT: THERE WILL BE SOME CONCERN HERE ABOUT PROVO REACTION TO DEATH OF A WOULD-BE ESCAPEE. WE SUPPOSE, HOWEVER, THAT GOI IS NOT NEARLY AS CONCERNED AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF ESCAPE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. PREVIOUS ESCAPES HAVE BEEN HIGHLY EMBARRASSING, AND SOLDIERS HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN ORDERED TO REACT STRONGLY. PROVOS RECENTLY HELD A HUNGER STRIKE FOR BETTER PRISON CONDITIONS, BUT GOI IS LIKELY TO TIGHTEN UP AGAIN IN LIGHT OF DISCOVERY THAT PROVOS ARE STILL ABLE TO SMUGGLE IN EXPLOSIVES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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